



Trump's comparison of student protests to Jan. 6 is part of effort to downplay Capitol attack

By ALI SWENSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump this week lamented the possibility that Columbia University's pro-Palestinian protesters could be treated more leniently than the rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol in January 2021, marking the second time the former president has invoked the on-going campus protests to downplay past examples of right-wing violence. Speaking Tuesday in the hallway outside a Manhattan courtroom where his criminal hush money trial is taking place, Trump questioned whether student demonstrators who had seized and barricaded a campus building, some of them vandalizing it in the process, would be treated the same way as his supporters who attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6 to stop certification of the presidential results.

"I think I can give you the answer right now," he said. "And that's why people have lost faith in our court system."



Pro Palestinian students lock arms, sing and chant as they braced for New York Police Department officers to raid campus after Columbia University President Minouche Shafik called on the NYPD to dismantle encampments and remove individuals from Hamilton Hall, Tuesday, April 30, 2024 in New York.

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Trump's comparison of student protests to Jan. 6 is part of effort to downplay Capitol attack

Continued from Front

Trump's remarks demonstrate anew how he and the Republican Party have tried to minimize the deadliest assault on the seat of American power in over 200 years, arguing that violent or criminal behavior by the left is a larger threat. Trump has called the rioters "unbelievable patriots" and has talked openly about the prospect of issuing pardons if he wins a second term.

His comments come as he runs to reclaim the White House and is juggling charges in four separate criminal cases. They promote his position that the charges are being orchestrated by Democrats to keep him out of the White House and that he and his supporters are the targets of political persecution by a fundamentally corrupt justice system.

"They took over a building. That is a big deal," Trump said of the Columbia protesters. "And I wonder if what's going to happen to them will be anything comparable to what happened to J6, because they're doing a lot of destruction, a lot of damages, a lot of people getting hurt very badly. I wonder if that's going to be the same kind of treatment they gave J6. Let's see how that all works out."

Hours later, New York police stormed the campus building the protesters had occupied and arrested several dozen people. The scene prompted Trump during a Wednesday rally in Wisconsin to characterize New York as being "under siege" the night before. New York City Mayor Eric Adams said those who had taken over the Columbia building would face charges that included burglary, trespassing and criminal mischief.



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at the Waukesha County Expo Center in Waukesha, Wis.

Associated Press

In the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, more than 1,350 people have been charged with federal crimes. Over 800 have been sentenced, with roughly two-thirds receiving terms of imprisonment ranging from a few days to 22 years. According to the Justice Department, 89 have pleaded guilty to federal felony charges of assaulting law enforcement officers. Legal scholars and political scientists said Trump's strategy could help his campaign, but point out there are stark differences between Jan. 6 and the campus protests against the Israel-Hamas war. College students have gathered in encampments on Columbia and other campuses to call for a ceasefire and demand their universities cut financial ties to Israel. "The Columbia protests are not aimed at stopping the peaceful transition of power following an election, so they do not threaten the functioning of U.S. democracy," said Richard Hasen, an expert in

election law and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles law school. Hakeem Jefferson, an assistant professor of political science at Stanford University, said the demonstrations at a Columbia building that also was occupied during a civil rights protest in the 1960s reflect a long tradition of college students "pushing on the conscience" of their country. "This is a tradition of protest. Disruptive, to be sure. Annoying to university administrators, to be sure," Jefferson said. "To the contrary, what happened on January the 6th was a violent attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. There is no tradition of that in American history. It is unprecedented. And that is why we should, of course, treat it differently." Some of the recent campus protests have erupted into clashes with police, and hundreds of students have been arrested. Protesters in some parts of the country have hurled water bottles

or other objects at officers, and police have deployed chemical agents to disperse crowds or carried them away amid screams.

Trump's remarks build on a strategy of Republicans and conservative social media influencers to reframe what constitutes an insurrection as part of an ongoing attempt to influence the public's perception of Jan. 6. They have used the term to describe public demonstrations and even the 2020 election that put Democrat Joe Biden in the White House.

Some social media users on Tuesday called the takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall an "insurrection," and said the media wouldn't describe it that way because the views of the protesters aligned with the political left. Fox News used the reference in an article Tuesday about the student protesters, reporting that "the insurrection began at approximately 12:30 a.m."

Legal experts say the term

"insurrection" has a specific meaning — a violent uprising that targets government authority — and that protests that do not involve an attempt to dismantle or replace a government shouldn't be classified that way. Tuesday was the second time in a week that Trump has compared the campus protests to past examples of right-wing violence. Last week, he claimed the deadly 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where torch-wielding white supremacists chanted "Jews will not replace us" was "nothing" compared to the antisemitism displayed at the campus protests.

"The hate wasn't the kind of hate that you have here," he said.

He returned to the reference in his comment outside court on Tuesday, saying, "Charlottesville is peanuts compared to what you're looking at now."

The campus protests have pitted students against one another, and videos show instances of demonstrators making antisemitic remarks and violent threats. Some Jewish students say the hateful rhetoric has made them afraid to set foot on campus. Meanwhile, organizers of the protests, some of whom are Jewish, say it is a peaceful movement aimed at defending Palestinian rights and protesting the war.

Columbia University on Tuesday said students occupying Hamilton Hall would face expulsion.

"Protesters have chosen to escalate to an untenable situation — vandalizing property, breaking doors and windows, and blockading entrances — and we are following through with the consequences we outlined yesterday," said Ben Chang, the university's spokesperson. □

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene vows to force a vote next week on ousting House Speaker Mike Johnson

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said Wednesday she would call a vote next week on ousting House Speaker Mike Johnson, forcing her colleagues to choose sides in a difficult showdown after Democratic leaders announced they would provide the votes to save the Republican speaker's job.

Speaking outside the Capitol, Greene ranted against Republican Party leaders at the highest levels and pushed back against their public entreaties, including from Donald Trump, to avoid another messy political fight so close to the November election. With her was Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., one of the few lawmakers to join her effort. "We need leaders in the House of Representatives that are going to get this done," said Greene, R-Ga., holding up a red "MAGA" hat from Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign movement.

"Mike Johnson is not capable of that job," she said. In pressing ahead next week, she said that "every member of Congress needs to take that vote."

The standoff with Greene, one of Trump's most enthusiastic supporters, risks throwing Republican control of the House into a fresh round of chaos as rank-and-file lawmakers will have to choose between ousting Johnson, R-La., as speaker or joining with Democrats to keep him on the job.

Johnson, in his own statement, said Greene's move was "wrong for the Republican Conference, wrong for the institution, and wrong for the country."

Democrats see in Johnson a potential partner, a hard-line conservative who nevertheless is willing to lead his Republican Party away from the far-right voices obstructing the routine business of governing, including funding the government and, more recently, supporting Ukraine and other U.S. allies overseas.



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., says she'll call a vote next week on ousting House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

The Democratic leader, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, and his team issued a joint statement this week saying it was time to "turn the page" on the GOP chaos, announcing that the Democrats would vote to table Greene's motion to vacate the speaker's office, essentially ensuring Johnson is not evicted from office.

Johnson's public opponents are few, at this point, and less than the eight that it took to oust now-former Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., last fall in the first ever removal of sitting speaker from the powerful office that is second in the line of succession to the president. Just one other Republican, Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona, has joined Greene's effort.

Greene and Massie said they were giving their colleagues the weekend to weigh their options before calling for the vote on her motion to vacate next week. Or, they said, Johnson could simply resign, pointing to the example of a previous speaker, Republican John Boehner of Ohio, who stepped aside in 2015 when hard-liners threatened to oust him.

"Are you going to embrace Hakeem Jeffries like Mike Johnson has?" said Massie, before a poster-photo of Jeffries handing Johnson the gavel when the Republican first became speaker last fall. "They've got a weekend to think about it, but more importantly, Mike Johnson has a weekend to think about it." The turmoil has gripped a

his razor-thin majority to work together on party priorities and has been forced him into the arms of Democrats for the votes needed to approve most big bills — and now, to keep his job.

Johnson had been elected by Republicans as a last-ditch consensus candidate after McCarthy's ouster, but he courted the far-right's ire when he led passage of the \$95 billion foreign aid package for Ukraine and U.S. allies that they oppose.

Trump has given a nod of support to Johnson, who dashed to the former president's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida last month to shore up backing.

Other Republican leaders, in-

cluding Trump's hand-picked head of the Republican National Committee, Michael Whatley, have urged House Republicans to hold off the removal effort before the fall election that will determine which party controls the White House and Congress. In a private meeting Tuesday, Whatley urged House Republicans to unite around their shared priorities. He delivered the same message later in the day to Greene, telling her that trying to remove Johnson was not helpful, according to a person familiar with the conversations who was not authorized to discuss them publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. □



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News organizations have trust issues as they gear up to cover another election, a poll finds

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as many Americans say they learn about the 2024 election campaign from national news outlets, a disquieting poll reveals some serious trust issues.

About half of Americans, 53%, say they are extremely or very concerned that news organizations will report inaccuracies or misinformation during the election. Some 42% express worry that news outlets will use generative artificial intelligence to create stories, according to a poll from the American Press Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll found 47% of Americans also expressing serious concern that news outlets would report information that has not been confirmed or verified, and 44% worry that accurate information will be presented in a way that favors one side or another.

Half of Americans say they get election news always or frequently from national news outlets, a percentage that is higher among older respondents, the poll found. "The level of engagement is good," said Michael Bolden, CEO of the American Press Institute. "The thing that's most concerning is that they're not sure they can actually trust the information."

Years of suspicion about journalists, much of it sown by poli-



Journalists line the press stand before Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a caucus night party in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

ticians, is partly responsible, he said. People are also less familiar with how journalism works. The poll found about half of respondents say they have at least a moderate amount of confidence in the information they receive from either national or local news outlets when it comes to the 2024 elections, though only about 1 in 10 say they have a great deal of confidence. "There may have been a time when people knew a journalist because one lived on their block," Bolden said. "The way the industry has been decimated, that's much less likely."

Simply putting out the news often isn't good enough anymore, he said. There's a growing disconnect between

news organizations and communities that the outlets need to address, by helping to let people know what journalists do and how people reporting news are their friends and neighbors, he said.

Outlets should lean into a convenor role, bringing people together for newsworthy events, he said.

About half of U.S. adults say they follow the news about presidential elections closely, with older adults being more engaged. About two-thirds of Americans age 60 or older say they keep a close eye on presidential election news, compared with roughly one-third of those under age 30. The same trend is seen with local and state election news. While the poll found

that 46% of Americans age 60 or older say they follow news about local and state elections closely, only 16% of people age 18 to 29 said the same thing.

"As they transition to becoming older people, will they begin to care?" Bolden asked. "If they don't begin to care, what will that mean for local and state communities?"

Young people, those under age 30, are about as likely to get election news from social media or friends or family as they are to get it from national or local news outlets, the poll found. Black and Latino adults are somewhat more likely to express "a great deal" of confidence in the reliability of social media as a source of election news

than white Americans are. That's both a warning sign, since there is a lot more misinformation to be found on social media, and an opportunity for traditional outlets to make more of their work available this way, Bolden said.

About 6 in 10 Democrats say they get election news from national outlets at least frequently. That's more than the 48% of Republicans or 34% of independents, according to the poll. Republicans are more likely than Democrats and independents to express concern about inaccurate information or misinformation in news coverage during the upcoming elections. About 6 in 10 Republicans are concerned about this, compared with about half of Democrats. Besides inaccuracies, many also expressed serious concern about election news that focuses too much on division or controversies or concentrates on who may win or lose — the horserace aspect of political coverage — rather than issues or the character of candidates.

Most Americans say that for them to make informed decisions about the 2024 state and local elections, they want national and local news outlets to highlight candidates' values or their different positions on key social issues. In each case, about three-quarters of U.S. adults say they would like "a lot" or "some" coverage of these topics. □



Yvette Lewis, a Metro High School security guard, watches as a fleet of Missouri Central Bus Company school busses leaves the school following dismissal, Feb. 27, 2024, in St. Louis, Mo.

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis' school district is offering to pay some families to drive

their kids to school as part of an effort to offset a shortage of bus drivers.

St. Louis school district will pay families to drive kids to school amid bus driver shortage

"We are excited to announce a new set of programs aimed at addressing the current challenges in transportation services," Toyin Akinola, St. Louis Public Schools' director of transportation, wrote in a Monday letter to parents, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Under the plan, families who have experienced "chronic bus absenteeism" this school year will receive gas cards for the next two weeks. Starting May 13, all families in the district "willing to transport their children" can receive

\$75 for each of the last two weeks of school.

The funding will be available to families whose students are not tardy or absent more than once a week.

In March, Missouri Central School Bus Co. announced it would terminate its contract with the district at the end of the school year. The relationship between the company and district grew strained after a noose was found near the workstation of a Black mechanic and an ensuing driver walkout snarled bus service

for one of Missouri's largest school systems.

Missouri Central's contract with the district was supposed to run through the 2024-25 school year, but the company had an opt-out clause.

A company official said Missouri Central asked the district for additional money in December "to address unprecedented industry inflation and a nationwide school bus driver shortage." The district refused. A statement from the district said the company sought an extra \$2 million. □

Georgian lawmakers move closer to passing 'Russian law' targeting the media

By SOPHIKO MEGRELIDZE

Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgia's Parliament moved a step closer Wednesday to passing a law that critics fear will stifle media freedom and endanger the country's European Union membership bid, as police used water cannons, tear gas and pepper spray against the tens of thousands of protesters who thronged surrounding streets.

Dozens of people were arrested the night before, and mass rallies have continued daily in the capital, Tbilisi. Protesters denounce the bill as "the Russian law" because neighboring Russia uses similar legislation to stigmatize independent news media and organizations critical of the Kremlin.

The law would require media and noncommercial organizations to register as "pursuing the interests of a foreign power," if they receive more than 20% of funding from abroad. The ruling Georgian Dream party withdrew a similar proposal last year after large crowds protested. Eighty-three of Georgia's 150 lawmakers approved the bill in its second reading, while 23 voted against it. A third and final vote in Parliament is needed before it can be signed into law. Georgian



Riot policemen stand ready to fire gas grenade during an opposition protest against "the Russian law" near the Parliament building in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

lawmaker Irakli Kobakhidze told reporters on Wednesday that he expected that final vote to happen in mid-May. Russia-Georgia relations have been complicated and turbulent since the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990s. The two countries fought a short war in 2008 that ended with Georgia losing control of two Russia-friendly separatist regions.

In the aftermath, Tbilisi severed diplomatic ties with Moscow, and the issue of the regions' status remains a key irritant,

even as relations have somewhat improved.

Georgia joined international resolutions condemning Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, but it also became a main destination for Russians fleeing military mobilization and political crackdowns. Even Georgia's ruling party has seen internal tensions over its neighbor.

The Interior Ministry said that 63 people were detained following Tuesday's protest.

Georgian television showed Levan Khabeishvili, chairman

of the pro-West United National Movement party, arriving in Parliament on Wednesday morning with bandages on his nose and forehead. Members of Khabeishvili's party said that he had been assaulted by police during the protests. Purple bruising and cuts were visible around Khabeishvili's left eye as he urged fellow lawmakers to scrap the bill. "If you are not interested in how the leader of the main opposition party has been beaten up, then — for the sake of those young people

who were injured, who were hit on the heads and bruised — I want to ask you once more, even though I do not have any hope, withdraw this law," he said.

Deputy Interior Minister Aleksandre Darakhvelidze alleged at a briefing Wednesday that Khabeishvili broke through a police cordon the night before and was injured while he "resisted." Darakhvelidze alleged that protesters and opposition leaders were "constantly committing violence." Police broke up the protest after demonstrators tried to block entrances to Parliament. As protesters gathered once more Wednesday, opposition lawmaker Beqa Liluashvili published a live video from the Parliament chamber showing lawmakers shouting and physically confronting each other. One threw a stack of papers at opponents. Others restrained colleagues.

Opposition lawmaker Helene Khoshtaria accused the ruling party of trying to "drag Georgia into Russian influence" and "close off its European future."

Speaking to The Associated Press outside Parliament, she described authorities' response to the rallies as "extremely authoritarian" but said it would not dissuade the protesters. □

U.S. says it will return to Chad for talks to keep troops in the country

By FRANCIS KOKUTSE

Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — The U.S. military plans to return to Chad within a month for talks about revising an agreement that allows it to keep troops based there, an American general said Wednesday. The U.S. said last month it was withdrawing most of its contingent of about 100 troops from Chad after the government questioned the legality of their operations there. This followed Niger's decision to order all U.S. troops out of the country, dealing a blow to U.S. military operations in the Sahel, a vast region south of the Sahara desert where groups linked to al-Qaida and the

Islamic State group operate. U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley, the commander of U.S. Africa Command, made the comments to reporters in Ghana at the second annual African Maritime Forces Summit, or AMFS. He said the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Chad was expected to be temporary, and Chad had communicated to Washington that it wanted to continue the security partnership after the presidential election there. "We'll come back for discussions within a month to see in what ways, and what they need, to be able to build further in their security construct and also against terrorism,"

Langley said. Government officials in Chad couldn't immediately be reached for comment. The presidential election in Chad is scheduled for Monday, and analysts expect the incumbent to win. Chad's interim president, Mahamat Deby Itno, seized power after his father, who ran the country for more than three decades, was killed fighting rebels in 2021. Last year, the government announced it was extending the 18-month transition for two more years, which led to protests across the country. Langley said the withdrawal of U.S. forces was a temporary step "as part of an ongoing review of our security coop-



Gen. Michael Langley, USMC, Commander, U.S. Africa Command, testifies during a Senate committee hearing on Senate Armed Services hearing to examine the posture of United States Central Command and United States Africa Command, Thursday, March 16, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

eration, which will resume after Chad's May 6 presidential election."

Both Chad and Niger have been integral to the U.S. military's efforts to counter violent

extremist organizations across the Sahel region, but Niger's ruling junta ended an agreement last month that allows U.S. troops to operate in the West African country. □

Mexican volunteer searchers say they've found a clandestine crematorium in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Volunteer searchers said they have found a clandestine crematorium on the edge of Mexico City, though it was unclear if evidence found at the scene would back up that claim.

It's the first time in recent memory that anyone claimed to have found such a body disposal site in the capital. In northern Mexico, drug cartels often use drums filled with diesel or caustic substances to burn or dissolve bodies, but up to now there has been little evidence of that in Mexico City. Ceci Flores, a leader of one of the groups of so-called "searching mothers" from northern Mexico, announced on social media late Tuesday her team had found bones around a charred pit on the outskirts of the city.

Flores said the team had found bones, clandestine burial pits and ID cards at the site in a rural area of the city's south side.

Ulises Lara, Mexico City's chief prosecutor, later said police went to the addresses listed on the cards and "found that both of the people to whom those cards belonged are alive and in good health."

Lara said one of them, a woman, said her card and cell phone and had been stolen about a year ago,



A member of the National Search Commission uses a ground-penetrating radar in an area where volunteers said they have found a clandestine crematorium in Tlahuac, on the edge of Mexico City, Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

when thieves snatched her phone and ID card from her hands while she was stuck in traffic.

While that ruled out the possibility the woman's body could have been dumped there, it did suggest that criminals had used the site to dispose of evidence.

Lara said experts were investigating to determine the nature of the remains found, and whether they were human. The prosecutors office said it was also reviewing security camera footage and looking for possible witnesses.

The discovery, if confirmed, would be a political embarrassment for the ruling party, which has long governed Mexico City and claims the capital has been spared much of the drug cartel violence that afflicts other parts of the country.

That is largely due to the city's dense population, notoriously snarled traffic, extensive security camera network and large police force, which presumably make it hard for criminals to act in the same way they do in provincial areas.

But while the city is home to 9 million residents and the greater metropolitan area holds around 20 million, large parts of the south side are still a mix of farms, woods and mountains. In those areas, it is not unheard of for criminals to dump the bodies of kidnapping victim, but they seldom burn or bury them. Volunteer searchers like Flores often conduct their own investigations, sometimes relying on tips from former criminals, because the government has been unable to help. The search-

ers have been angered by a government campaign to "find" missing people by checking their last known address, to see if they have returned home without advising authorities.

Activists claim that is just an attempt to reduce the politically embarrassing figures on the missing.

The searchers, mostly the mothers of the disappeared, usually aren't trying to convict anyone for their relatives' abductions. They say they just want to find their remains. The Mexican government has spent little on looking for the missing. Volunteers must stand in for nonexistent official search teams in the hunt for clandestine graves where cartels hide their victims. The government hasn't adequately funded or implemented a genetic database to help identify the remains found.

Victims' relatives rely on anonymous tips, sometimes from former cartel gunmen, to find suspected body-dumping sites. They plunge long steel rods into the earth to detect the scent of death. If they find something, the most authorities will do is send a police and forensics team to retrieve the remains, which in most cases are never identified. But such systematic searches have been rare in Mexico City. □



Israeli soldiers gather near the Israeli-Gaza border in southern Israel before they enter Gaza Strip, Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Wednesday announced his government will break diplomatic

relations with Israel effective Thursday in the latest escalation of tensions between the countries over the Israel-Hamas war.

Colombia's president says country will break diplomatic relations with Israel over war in Gaza

Petro again described Israel's siege of Gaza as "genocide." He previously suspended purchases of weapons from Israel and compared that country's actions in Gaza to those of Nazi Germany.

"Tomorrow, diplomatic relations with the State of Israel will be broken ... for having a genocidal president," Petro said during an International Workers' Day march in Colombia's capital. "If Palestine dies, humanity dies, and we are not going to let it die." Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz quickly rebuked Petro's comments on the platform X.

"History will remember that Gustavo Petro decided to side with the most despicable monsters known to mankind who burned babies, murdered children, raped women and kidnapped innocent civilians," he said. Weeks after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel that sparked the current war in Gaza and killed some 1,200 people, Petro recalled Colombia's ambassador to Israel as he criticized the country's military offensive.

Historically, Colombia had been one of Israel's closest partners in Latin America.

But relations between the two nations have cooled since Petro was elected as Colombia's first leftist president in 2022.

Colombia uses Israeli-built warplanes and machine guns to fight drug cartels and rebel groups, and both countries signed a free trade agreement in 2020.

"Relations between Israel and Colombia always were warm and no antisemitic and hate-filled president will succeed in changing that," Katz wrote Tuesday. "The state of Israel will continue to defend its citizens without worry and without fear." □



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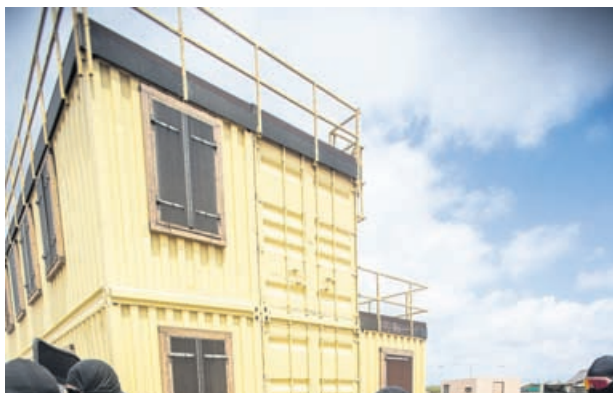
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Aruba celebrates Labor Day at the “Open Day” of the Marine Barracks



Yesterday, May 1st, the annual “Open Day” was held at the Marine Barracks in Savaneta. From 10 am to 4 pm, the Royal Marines opened their doors to the public with a varied program for both young people and adults.

The open day provided a wide range of activities and demonstrations, during which visitors could get a unique insight into the work of Defense and Security partners. The Marine Corps,

Royal Marechaussee, Caribbean Coast Guard, Aruba Disaster Management Office, and Aruba Police Force were present to showcase their roles.

Some of the highlights of the day included impressive parachute jumps by the 'Defensie Parashool,' organizations supporting different charitable actions, and caps distributed among the children. The organiza-

tions receiving support from the event were CasMarie Meeting Center for Persons with Dementia and Neighborhood Center (CdB) Savaneta.

Throughout the day, there were demonstrations on land and water, each with two demonstrations, simulating different scenarios. In addition to the demonstrations, there was live music, while the market and food kiosks offered visitors delicious items and

souvenirs to take home.

The success of the Open Day at the Marine Barracks is thanks to the efforts of everyone involved and the enthusiastic participation of the public. The event not only contributed to raising awareness about the work of Defense and Emergency services but also provided valuable support to two charitable causes. Until next year on May 1st, 2025! □



Papillon: Where Culinary Tradition Sparks with Timeless Elegance

Tucked away in the vibrant heart of the Village for over a decade and a half, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's a culinary adventure waiting to unfold. Picture this: a sanctuary where the flavors of the French Caribbean dance harmoniously with classic French fare, all set against the backdrop of a movie-inspired ambiance that's as enchanting as it is welcoming.

Step through the doors of Papillon, and you're not just stepping into a dining establishment; you're stepping into a world where sophistication embraces you like an old friend. The decor, a homage to the allure of the iconic film, casts a spell of intimacy and comfort, urging you to settle in and relish every moment. Here, dining isn't just about sustenance; it's about indulging in an experience meticulously crafted to ignite your senses.

At the heart of Papillon's magic lies its menu – a symphony of flavors orchestrated by culinary artisans. Imagine savoring the decadent richness of foie gras or the sublime delicacy of frog legs, each dish a love letter to tradition infused with a dash of innovation. And oh, the spectacle of the Dover sole being expertly prepared tableside! It's culinary theater at its finest, leaving you spellbound with every bite.

But wait, there's more! Enter the realm of the Chef's Table, a weekly extravaganza led by the maestro himself, Executive Chef Juan Ludeña.



Prepare to be whisked away on a six-course odyssey, each dish meticulously paired with wines hand-picked by the esteemed Maitre d' Michael Otten. It's a soirée reserved for those who truly appreciate the artistry of gastronomy – an exquisite symphony for the palate.

And if that wasn't enough to tantalize your taste buds, behold the newest addition to the Papillon family: L'Avenue – a Belgian bistro nestled in the sun-kissed paradise of Palm Beach Aruba. Here, amidst the swaying palms and azure waters, Belgian cuisine takes center stage. From plump mussels to heavenly Brussels waffles, every bite is a journey through



the flavors of Belgium, set against a backdrop of laid-back luxury.

In essence, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's an oasis for epicurean explorers. It's where passion meets refinement, where every dish is a masterpiece waiting to be savored, and every moment is a celebration of the finer things in life. So whether you're craving the warmth of French Caribbean delights or eager to embark on a culinary voyage through Belgium, Papillon and L'Avenue invite you to join them on an unforgettable journey for the senses. Bon appétit! □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. These honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years con-

secutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassador
Mr. Mike & Mrs. Jeannette Wells from Arizona, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Playa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation des-

tination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- "Our home away from home"
- "The best rest and relaxation ever"
- "Our friends in Aruba are our extended family."
- "The staff at Playa Linda are amazing."
- Aruba's weather and restaurant options.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of

fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Live-stock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:
Candelchi actually refers to

the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they

are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:
Candelchi are found on

reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Tamarijn Aruba All inclusive Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Wayne & Mrs. Lisa Mello from Massachusetts, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Tamarijn Aruba All inclusive Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as

their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's Safe.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- "Beautiful resort".
- Aruba's Restaurants.
- "Location of the resort is perfect".

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes



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page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitors Paul Donnellan.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba means to me...feeling like visitors are truly liked by Aruba people who are consistently helpful and caring. Most of all, going above and beyond even if not required. Our family gives funny pens to people who are especially helpful. Here are just some examples of those special people taken in February."

Thank you for sending us this won-



derful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is

the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or



Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their

truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Weary word
5 Road division
9 Authority
11 Smile upon
12 Gushes forth
13 "West Side Story" role
14 Simile center
15 Distress calls
17 Ribbon-strewn staff
19 Golf need
20 Cold forecast
21 Airport sight
22 Pueblo material
24 Way off
26 Elizabethan collars
29 Tattoo setting
30 Fashionable London area
32 Herb-flavored German punch
34 Corp. bigwig
35 Poker payments
36 Stylishly quaint

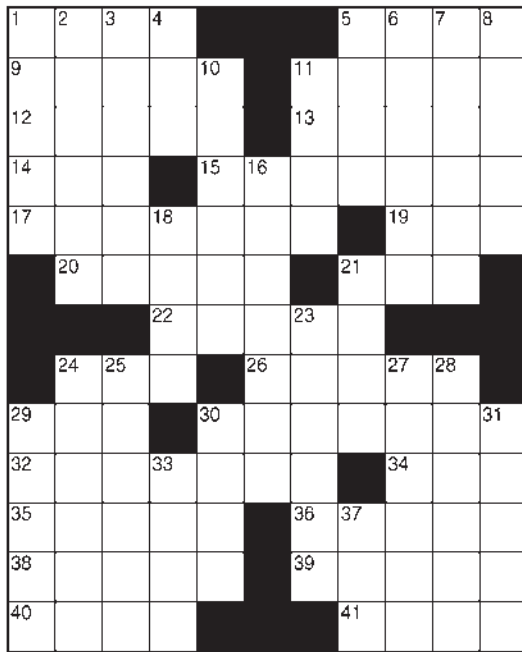
- 38 Meager
39 Tempest
40 Mailed
41 Historic times

DOWN

- 1 Tea-growing region
2 Washes against, as the shore
3 Ensign's answer
4 Compass pt.
5 Hit the runway
6 Take wing
7 Procrastinator's words
8 Make blank
10 Donny or Marie
11 Dunaway of "Bonnie and Clyde"
16 Campaign loser
18 Dessert fruit
21 Probst of "Survivor"
23 Boutique patrons
24 Tours setting
25 "The Joy Luck Club" author
27 Element range
28 Rugged
29 Accumulate
30 Rainbow maker
31 Hotel units
33 Departed
37 Summer in Paris



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-1

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G Z P J K M L Q X R K M X S

L U D L E K G K P X R, K M L Q X R K M

X S F P J M L J, K M L Q X R K M X S

M X D L. — L Q P W Z V O X R K L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MAY IS THE MONTH OF EXPECTATION, THE MONTH OF WISHES, THE MONTH OF HOPE. — EMILY BRONTE

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Lawsuit against Meta asks if Facebook users have right to control their feeds using external tools

BARBARA ORTUTAY**AP Technology Writer (AP)**

— Do social media users have the right to control what they see — or don't see — on their feeds?

A lawsuit filed against Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. is arguing that a federal law often used to shield internet companies from liability also allows people to use external tools to take control of their feed — even if that means shutting it off entirely.

The Knight First Amendment



Meta's logo is seen on a sign at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., Nov. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

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Institute at Columbia University filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Meta Platforms on behalf of an Amherst professor who wants to release a tool that enables users to unfollow all the content fed to them by Facebook's algorithm.

The tool, called Unfollow Everything 2.0, is a browser extension that would let Facebook users unfollow friends, groups and pages and empty their newsfeed — the stream of posts, photos and videos that can keep them scrolling endlessly. The idea is that without this constant, addicting stream of content, people might use it less. If the past is any indication, Meta will not be keen on the idea.

A U.K. developer, Luis Barclay, released a similar tool, called Unfollow Everything, but he took it down in 2021,

fearing a lawsuit after receiving a cease-and-desist letter and a lifetime Facebook ban from Meta, then called Facebook Inc.

With Wednesday's lawsuit, Ethan Zuckerman, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is trying to beat Meta to the legal punch to avoid getting sued by the social media giant over the browser extension. "The reason it's worth challenging Facebook on this is that right now we have very little control as users over how we use these networks," Zuckerman said in an interview. "We basically get whatever controls Facebook wants. And that's actually pretty different from how the internet has worked historically." Just think of email, which lets people use different email clients, or different web browsers, or anti-track-

ing software for people who don't want to be tracked.

Meta did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on Wednesday,

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California centers on a provision of Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which is often used to protect internet companies from liability for things posted on their sites. A separate clause, though, provides immunity to software developers who create tools that "filter, screen, allow, or disallow content that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable." The lawsuit, in other words, asks the court to determine whether Facebook users' news feed falls into the category of objectionable material that they should be able to filter out in order to enjoy the platform. □



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'Welcome to Wrexham' returns for a 'nail-biter' season, Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney say

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

Four years after purchasing Wales' Wrexham A.F.C., Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney seem to have no regrets about their investment — despite the high costs of ownership.

The Wrexham Red Dragons recently clinched a promotion and is now two-tiers away from the top level, known as the Premier League.

The last few years have been a crash course for Reynolds and McElhenney in both the game of English soccer and the economics behind it.

The experience has been captured in the FX docuseries "Welcome to Wrexham," debuting its third season May 2. The actors spoke with The Associated Press about separating their inner-fan with public-facing jobs as chairmen and how the new episodes will be released closer to real-time.

AP: Has learning the business of sports changed you as a spectator?

McELHENNEY: No. I have to separate myself. I think what's important about that is it allows me to give space to the supporters of Wrexham, because they deserve the right to complain and get upset when things aren't going well because that's their right as supporters.

I have that relationship with the Philadelphia Eagles. I both have respect for all the players in the organization, but (football) is a way I deal with my frustrations and anxiety and it's something I look forward to on the weekend. It's also something I have a passionate feelings about that I express to my friends, not necessarily publicly.

As chairmen of a football club, we have to hold ourselves to a different standard. We have to have at least a modicum of decorum in our exchanges about how we talk about things, because these are human beings, not characters on a screen. These



This image released by FX shows Ryan Reynolds, left, and Rob McElhenney in a scene from the third season of "Welcome to Wrexham."

Associated Press

are not athletes who mean nothing to us. These are our friends. These are our employees. These are people who we have to treat with dignity, grace and respect, and to recognize that this is their livelihood, so there's a very clear line of demarcation.

REYNOLDS: Just to piggyback on that, we do have each other. We have the public facing side of it, but then we can also take a moment to enjoy a festival of expletives when we're frustrated or if things aren't going according to plan. You obviously express your joy for the team succeeding outwardly. You want to make sure it's being expressed to all those supporters who have been there.

Some have spread the ashes of their grandparents and parents on the field

where this club is playing. We have an impossible amount of respect for that tradition and that fan base and everything that they've been through, all the ups and downs. But I'm always grateful that Rob and I can have that sidebar where we both go, you know, "Holy (expletive), I can't believe this is happening right now. I can't believe we got out of the National League. I can't believe we've just lost to this club."

AP: With a show like this, viewers can do an internet search to see some of the outcome. Has there become a pressure to churn out episodes quicker?

REYNOLDS: Absolutely, but what we're most excited about with respect to season three is that as the episodes are finished, we will get closer and closer to continuity with the actual

football season happening. So, by the time we're midway through season three, you'll see we don't have any idea what's going to happen. Just from that sort of macro 30,000-foot narrative standpoint, we have no clue. Everything that we're doing right now is for broke. We have to get promoted. There's no real consolation prize if we don't. So we are all in.

McELHENNEY: That's truly the most exciting part about season three is that it will coincide with the end of the season. There was such a large gap between the end of last season and the documentary coming out. And we thought, "Well, if we're going to continue to make the show, we want to innovate a little bit, so that it becomes more exciting, so both the fans and the documentarians don't

know what's going to happen." We will catch up with the end of the season and those final few episodes. We actually will have trucks in the racecourse parking lot that will have editing facilities in them, and they will be taking footage and cutting the show as quickly as possible to get it out on onto the air, because we want it to happen in real time.

REYNOLDS: And if this season so far has taught us anything, this is going to be an absolute nail-biter yet again.

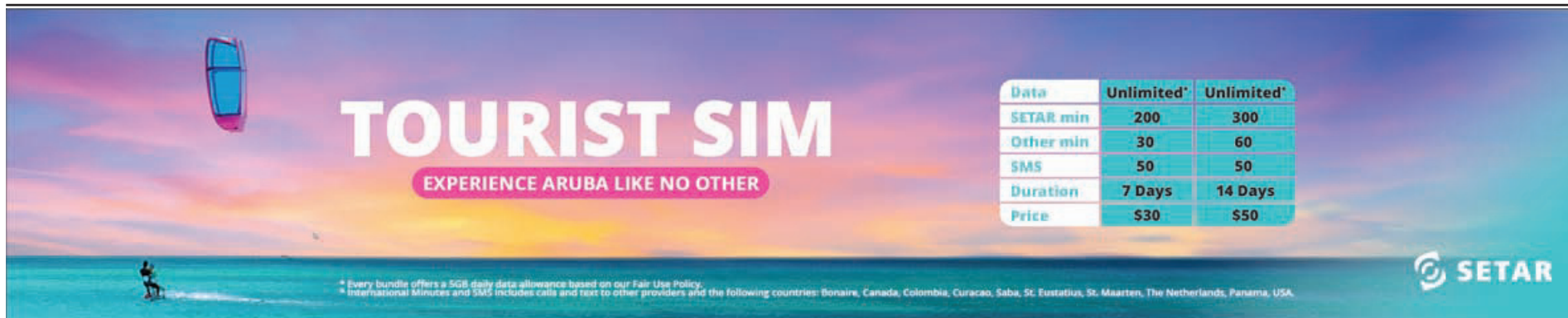
AP: Obviously the money that's been put into the team has helped and it's been a great emotional investment. What about financially? Where are you at?

REYNOLDS: Accountants don't really want to hear about the emotional investment.

McELHENNEY: You want to know, like how far in the red I am? It's pretty significant. It's true that in the beginning when we asked our advisors if this was a good economic investment, there was not one person that I can remember that was like, "Yes."

It was more like, "Don't."

REYNOLDS: Run away, yeah. History has an unbelievable amount of examples of how this was not the best idea, but we're not in it to make money and goddamn it, we won't. (Laughs) I think we recognize how lucky we are that we can be in this position where it isn't about making money or any of those things. I mean, you have to be in a pretty privileged spot to be able to do this to begin with. But eventually, you know, as we climb up the leagues, we're going to need outside help in order to sustain this club. One of our great mission statements and — this is something that is still a huge target — is to create a sustainable model for a sports club like this and allow it to support itself long after we're dead and gone. □



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SETAR

Caitlin Clark attendance boon: Some WNBA teams look for bigger arenas when the Fever come to town

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

WNBA teams have started making moves to capitalize on the popularity of Caitlin Clark. Some are booking bigger venues for when Clark and the Indiana Fever come to town.

The Las Vegas Aces and Washington Mystics have moved their games against the Fever to bigger arenas. The numbers Clark generated in college indicates it's a smart move. While at Iowa, when the No. 1 pick in the draft and the Hawkeyes went on the road this past season, they played in front of sellout crowds or set attendance records.

"She helps ticket sales, so I think it's a really great time to have eyes. She's going to be an elite player," Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "She has been in college. She's done stuff in college that nobody else has. She's going to be a great player in the W. There's

no doubt about it.

"So the more people we can pack into the building to cheer against her, we'll take it, although I don't know if they'll be cheering against her," Hammon quipped. "I guess they might be cheering for her."

The two-time reigning WNBA champion Aces relocated their game on May 25 from the 12,000-seat Michelob Ultra Arena to the 18,000-seat T-Mobile Arena.

Aces players credit Clark, but also know that their own team, which has won the past two WNBA championships, has done a great job increasing attendance at games over the past few seasons.

"We're not rolling out any red carpet. We're here to be a business and sell a lot of tickets. Kudos to her (Clark), but we also have done that in previous years in big games as well," Las Vegas guard Kelsey Plum said. "There are a lot of people that play basketball.

People are coming to watch A'ja Wilson. People are going to watch Chelsea Gray.

"That's not a slight on anyone, but I'm saying that's not for her. We played in Chicago last year. We sold it out last year."

Clark will make her preseason debut on Friday night at Dallas — a game that is already sold out.

The Mystics game against Indiana on June 7 will be played at Capital One Arena — Washington's old home. Their normal home, the Entertainment and Sports Arena, can seat up to 4,200 fans, but the Capital One Arena has a maximum basketball capacity of more than 20,000. Nearly half of WNBA teams play in NBA arenas, so there's no need to move those games.

Still, a few others that don't are feeling a push to move games to larger arenas, including the Chicago Sky. The Sky and Angel Reese play



Indiana Fever guard Maya Caldwell, left, defends against guard Caitlin Clark, front right, as the WNBA basketball team practices in Indianapolis, Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Associated Press

their home games in the 10,000-seat Wintrust Arena. Fans started a petition to move their first home game against Indiana to the bigger United Center. There's a concert scheduled at that arena on June 23 when the Fever come to town — so that's not going to happen. The Los Angeles Sparks are another team that could move

their game against Indiana. The Sparks are playing their first five home games at Long Beach because of arena conflicts from construction and the NBA and NHL playoffs. They are hosting the Fever on May 24, which is scheduled to be played at Long Beach. The team's first five games will be played there in a 4,000-seat arena. □



Andrey Rublev, of Russia, returns the ball to Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, during the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

By TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz's bid to win a third straight Madrid Open title ended with a three-set loss to Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Spaniard got off to a good start but then was outplayed by the seventh-seeded Rublev, losing 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the Caja Magica center court.

Alcaraz, who had already struggled in a three-set win

Alcaraz's quest to win third consecutive Madrid Open title ends with loss to Rublev in quarterfinals

over Jan-Lennard Struff on Tuesday, looked out of sorts and was mistake-prone toward the end.

It was his first tournament after missing Monte Carlo and Barcelona because of a right forearm injury. The 20-year-old Alcaraz had arrived in Madrid saying he would be happy to play three or four matches in the Spanish capital.

Already in a hole in the third set, Alcaraz pressed the forearm during a stopover. He was wearing a long sleeve over the injured arm.

"Today probably I felt more in the forearm than yesterday's match. I mean, playing three hours yesterday, I knew that I'm going to feel something or I'm going to think about it

even more," the third-ranked Alcaraz said. "Playing someone like Rublev that I couldn't push him to the limit in every point is tough."

Alcaraz plans to play in Rome to continue his preparation for the French Open later this month. "I'm going to go to Rome. I'm going to work to be close to 100% or in a good way to play Rome, but I'm going to decide these days. But I think I'll be OK," he said. "I have to work hard if I want to go to Rome with good feelings, without pain, without thinking about my forearm, but it's going to be a slow process, I guess. I have to be patient in that way." Alcaraz was trying to become the first player to win the clay-court tournament

three straight times. He hadn't lost on Spanish soil since 2021. Rublev, seeking his second ATP 1000 title after winning Monte Carlo last year, will play either Taylor Fritz or Francisco Cerundolo.

The world No. 8 was solid from the start and overpowered Alcaraz with 30 winners.

"The serve saved me a lot of times today," Rublev said. "The key was I was completely calm the whole match. I did not say one word, even if I was losing. That was the key and I was able to serve even better near the end. In the beginning, I was not serving that well but little by little, after set one, I served better and better and finished really well." □

Mike Trout's sublime talent defined his first decade in baseball. Injuries are the story now

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Mike Trout never had a significant injury in his charmed baseball career until May 2017, when he tore a thumb ligament sliding headfirst into second base. On his first day back from a 39-game absence, the superstar slugger stole second — and he slid headfirst again. "I'm not changing the way I play," a grinning Trout said that night in the Los Angeles Angels' clubhouse, a singular young athlete confident in his exceptionalism. Less than seven years later in the hallway outside that same Anaheim clubhouse, Trout repeatedly fought back tears Tuesday while he publicly processed his fourth major



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout runs after a single during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Monday, April 29, 2024, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

injury in the past four seasons. "It's just frustrating," he said quietly, his eyes downcast. "But we'll get through it. ... I play the game hard, and (stuff) happens." Trout still might be the greatest baseball player produced by his generation, but he'll never again be that 25-year-old who seemed pretty sure he was invincible. Like Ken Griffey Jr. before him, Trout's mid-career injury problems have waylaid a meteoric career and stalled his historic rate of production at the plate. The 32-year-old Trout's talent and passion still shine when he's on the field, but they haven't kept him healthy in his second decade in baseball. Since the start of the 2021 season, Trout has played in 266 games. The Angels' meeting with Philadelphia on Wednesday will be the 251st game he has missed in that stretch. Trout had 285 career homers when he won his third AL MVP award in 2019. The Angels' center fielder has hit just 93 homers in the four-plus seasons since then, with COVID-19 shortening his 2020 campaign and injuries doing the rest. Trout had 1,324 hits after the 2019 season, but he has compiled just 324 since, greatly slowing his march toward 2,000 or 3,000. His batting average (.277) and OPS (.958) since 2019 are also significantly below his career marks. While Trout's bat speed remains among the fastest in the majors, he has acknowledged several struggles with his mechanics for the past two seasons, including a declining contact rate and troubles with high-velocity pitching. Trout still led the majors with 10 homers when he got hurt this week, but his batting average was down to .220 — even dipping his career average below .300 shortly before his injury. Trout now has a torn meniscus in his left knee. Compounding his frustration, he doesn't know how it happened — perhaps while running in the outfield, perhaps while simply walking to the dugout. □



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